

Golborne
Urban District Council



Annual Report
of the
Public Health Department
For the Year 1975



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GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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LIST OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, 1973

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Chairman of Council	Councillor N. B. Holt
Vice Chairman	Councillor A. J. Johnson
Chairman of Health Committee	Councillor L. Healey, J.P.

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<u>Members</u>	<u>Ward</u>
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Henry Maddison	Heath Park
Kenneth Thompson	" "
John Edward Hilton, J.P.	" "
John Barwell	St. Thomas's
Edward Henry Roberts, J.P.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" "
Geoffrey Robson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" "
Thomas Gerard Morgan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lowton West
Gordon Andrew Holme	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" "
Roy Hartwell	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" "
Lois Healey, J.P.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Lowton East
Norman Bernard Holt	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" "
Arthur James Johnson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" "
Fred Crossley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Culcheth
Dennis Arthur Chapman	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
Richard John Charles Rawes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
Kenneth Douglas Oliver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Newchurch
Lawrence Daintith	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"
John David Fearn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	"

OFFICERS

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer - Mr. H. Holden
 Treasurer and Deputy Clerk - Mr. D. Burrows
 Engineer and Surveyor - Mr. J. C. Brooks
 Medical Officer of Health - Dr. J. M. V. Packer
 Chief Public Health Inspector - Mr. N. Speed

GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Medical Officer of Health

J.M.V. PACKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

* N. SPEED, Dip.P.H.I.E.B., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Stud.Inst.S.W.M.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

* H. LONGWORTH, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

* D. McLOUGHLIN, Dip.P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

* J. GWATKINS, Dip.P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK

MRS. S. BROCKLEY

MRS. B. DEAN (Part-time)

* Qualified Meat and Other Food Inspectors

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR 1973

24-00-

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Lowton.

To the Chairman and
Members of the Golborne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Healey and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Golborne for the year ended December, 1973, together with some of the vital statistics for the year.

It is regretted that a majority of the statistics and information that are used in compiling this section of the report have not yet been published by the Registrar General, and are therefore not available for inclusion. It is hoped, however, when these statistics relating to births and deaths in the Urban District during the year become available they will be reported to interested parties at that time.

The reported cases of notifiable infectious diseases showed a drastic reduction in numbers compared to the previous year, and it would appear that the planned programme of vaccination and immunisation being undertaken amongst the school children throughout the district has in some measure contributed to this situation.

There were 22 notifications in respect of suspected cases of dysentery, but in no case was the diagnosis confirmed by the laboratory investigations. This follows the pattern of previous years.

Dr. J. M. Packer resigned in January, 1974 in order to take up his new appointment with the Area Health Authority of St. Helens and Knowsley District Councils, and on his and my own behalf I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for their interest in public health matters during the year. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the help and co-operation readily given on all occasions by Mr. N. Speed, Chief Public Health Inspector, and all the staff of the Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Healey and Gentlemen,

M. J. BOND,

Medical Officer of Health.
(Acting)

GENERAL STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Area of district in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,567
Population. Census 1961	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21,277
Population. Census 1971	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28,178
Population. Registrar General's estimate, mid 1972						..	..	..	28,630
Number of inhabited houses -						..	..	..
End of 1972 according to rate books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,439
End of 1973	"	"	"	"	..	..	..	..	9,594
Rateable Value. End of 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£972,987
Rateable Value. End of 1973	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,496,690
Sum represented by a penny rate at end of 1973					..	..	..	..	£23,200

General Description of the Area

The Golborne Urban District extends from Ashton-in-Makerfield, Haydock and Newton-le-Willows on the West to Irlam Urban District and Rixton-with-Glazebrook in the Warrington Rural Area on the East, a distance of about seven miles. The southern boundaries are Newton Urban District and Croft, in the Warrington Rural District, whilst the area is bounded on the North by Abram Urban District and Leigh Borough.

The geological features of the Urban District vary very greatly. Starting from the western end and proceeding eastward, we first find coal fields and red sandstone, with a covering of clay surfaced by a good depth of loamy soil. In the more central parts of the area there is a sandstone base with a decreasing amount of clay and in the eastern portions the sub-soil becomes more sandy and the surface soil much more open, eventually becoming largely moss land.

The surface waters from Lowton and Golborne Wards mainly gravitate to Millingford Brook, which passes through the former Newton Lake before entering Sankey Brook, whose ultimate outlet is into the River Mersey at Sankey Bridges.

Lowton St. Mary's, Kenyon and Culcheth are principally drained by streams flowing eastward into the River Glaze, which falls to the Manchester Ship Canal. The height above Ordnance datum varies from 100 to 150 feet.

For the purposes of Local Government the district is divided into six wards, comprising Heath Park Ward and St. Thomas Ward in Golborne, Lowton East Ward and Lowton West Ward in Lowton, and Culcheth Ward and Newchurch Ward covering Culcheth and Glazebury, each with three representatives, making a total of eighteen councillors.

The principal industries in the district are Artificial Silk Manufacturer, Coal Mining, Engineering, Food Warehousing, Frozen Food Manufacturing and Agriculture. Employment has been well maintained in these industries during the year. Expansion and development has continued steadily in all parts of the Urban District during the period under review.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1973

Corrected Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis)

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases of all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	
		Age Period - Years										Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45		
Dysentery	22	-	1	-	-	-	6	3	1	7	-	2	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Measles	18	1	1	2	8	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	-	2	1	-	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	57	1	4	4	8	4	13	5	2	8	-	5	3

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1973

Ward Distribution of Infectious Diseases

DISEASE	WARD				TOTAL
	Heath Park	St. Thomas	Lowton West	Lowton East	
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	8
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1
Infective Jaundice	-	-	1	-	1
Measles	4	3	3	7	22
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	4
Scarlet Fever	-	4	1	2	18
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	5	7	5	10	57

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1973

Comparative Tables of Incidence and Mortality

DISEASE	1973		1972		1971		1970		1969		1968		Quinquenn- ial Mean 1968-1972	
	Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths		Cases		Deaths			
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths		
Dysentery	22	-	19	-	20	-	29	-	35	-	33	-	26	
*Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	-	1	-	6	-	2	-	1	-	2	
Infective Jaundice	4	-	-	-	3	-	36	-	12	-	3	-	10	
Measles	18	-	187	-	8	-	288	-	29	-	610	-	190	
Meningococcal infection	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
*Primary and influenzal pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	10	-	16	-	11	-	16	-	15	-	12	-	13	
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	2	-	3	2	6	-	4	-	6	-	5	-	4	
Tuberculosis: Non-respiratory	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	
Whooping Cough	1	-	8	-	8	-	7	-	6	-	20	-	8	
TOTALS	59	-	234	2	60	-	387	-	108	-	686	1	254	

* Diseases no longer notifiable.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1973

Age Groups of New Cases of Tuberculosis

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES, 1973

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS

1973 and the period of 1968-1972

YEAR	No. of Cases Notified		No. of Deaths		No. on Register at end of year		TOTAL
	Resp.	Non-resp.	Resp.	Non-resp.	Resp.	Non-resp.	
1973	2	-	-	1	41	8	49
1972	3	-	2	-	57	20	77
1971	6	1	-	-	57	20	77
1970	4	1	-	-	56	20	76
1969	6	3	-	-	59	13	72
1968	5	-	1	-	52	15	67
Average of 5 years 1968-1972	4	1	1	-	54	16	70

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

AGAINST

MEASLES, POLIOMYELITIS, DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS AND RUBELLA

	PRIMARY - BY YEAR OF BIRTH					
	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	TOTAL
Children protected against -						
Diphtheria	351	25	243	117	12	748
Whooping Cough	343	25	243	116	12	739
Tetanus	352	25	243	117	12	749
Poliomyelitis	335	16	202	130	16	699
Measles	216	-	13	57	49	335
Rubella	197	-	-	-	-	197
Smallpox	42	-	-	-	-	42
	REINFORCEMENT - BY YEAR OF BIRTH					
Children protected against -						
Diphtheria	405	-	4	16	11	436
Whooping Cough	72	-	3	16	11	102
Tetanus	404	-	4	16	11	435
Poliomyelitis	381	-	4	6	6	397
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rubella	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	63	-	-	-	-	63

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Withington Hospital, Manchester. The chemical analysis of water, milk and other foods is undertaken by the County Analyst's Laboratory, Preston.

Infectious Diseases
Examinations Made During 1973

No. of pathological specimens submitted for examination	46
No. Positive	1
No. Negative	45
No. of cases of notifiable disease investigated including food poisoning	25
Total no. of visits made to all cases	25

Hospital Services

No general hospitals are situated within the Urban District, but a full range of the services normally to be found in a district general hospital is provided at hospitals in Wigan, Leigh and Warrington. Facilities for maternity cases are provided at Billinge Hospital, Warrington General Hospital, Victoria Park Maternity Home, Warrington, and the Firs Maternity Home, Leigh. Patients requiring in-patient treatment for tuberculosis are admitted mainly to Wrightington Hospital, out-patient sessions are held by the Chest Physician at Leigh Infirmary. Facilities for the treatment of psychiatric illnesses are centred on Winwick Hospital and Billinge Hospital, and for mental subnormality at Newchurch Hospital, Culcheth.

Nursing Homes

One registered Nursing Home is situated in the Urban District, namely the Five Acres Nursing Home, Kenyon Lane, Lowton. Regular inspection and supervision of this Home is maintained by the Divisional Medical Officer.

Executive Council Services

The family doctor service and the general dental, pharmaceutical and ophthalmic services are the responsibility of the Lancashire Executive Council, 42 West Cliff, Preston.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Health Authority and the day to day administration of the wide range of services which it provides in this area is in the hands of Divisional Health Committee No. 10.

Ambulance Service

All vehicles in the Lancashire County Council ambulance service are under radio control, and all services in the Division are controlled by staff at the area ambulance headquarters at Whiston. Vehicles from other stations can be brought in easily because of the radio contact when necessary.

This service deals with all types of cases where such transport is required by reason of illness (including mental illness or mental subnormality), whether accident, other emergency, general illness or infectious disease. In cases of emergency any person having reason to do so may summon an ambulance and the emergency service number '999' should be used. In other cases the calls for this service are made either by a doctor, dentist, midwife, nurse or other duly qualified person, who can call Whiston headquarters, telephone number 051-426-5222.

Five stretcher-carrying ambulance vehicles and three "Sitting case" cars are stationed at the Ambulance Station, Silverdale Road, Newton-le-Willows and manned by an appropriate staff, all qualified in First Aid.

Clinics

The Urban District is served by two purpose-built clinics. In addition to the County Council's services the clinic at Culcheth is used as a branch surgery by a partnership of general practitioners. Clinic sessions are detailed below:-

Golborne Clinic, Derby Road

Child Health Clinic, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Clinic, Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Relaxation Class, Mondays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Cervical cytology, dental and chiropody sessions are held by appointment.

Culcheth Clinic, Jackson Avenue

Child Health Clinic, Tuesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Ante-natal Relaxation Class, Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Cervical cytology, dental and chiropody sessions are held by appointment.

Child Health Clinics are also held in rented premises as follows:-

Lowton - Civic Hall, Wednesdays, 2 - 4 p.m.

Glazebury - St. John's Methodist Church, Alternate Mondays, 2 - 3 p.m.

Health Visiting

A Health Visitor is a State Registered Nurse who has received at least a course of training in midwifery and undertaken a year of special training in preventive medicine (especially early detection of handicaps), health education, and social work. Although in much of her work she is concerned with mothers and children, her duties are by no means confined to these members of the family. In recent years the Health Visitor has worked increasingly with adults, particularly the elderly.

A substantial part of the Health Visitor's time is spent in connection with the School Health Service undertaking the duties of a School Nurse. If a Health Visitor has the aptitude she may undertake teaching of classes in health education and mothercraft subjects which are included in the school curriculum.

Hitherto, each Health Visitor has worked in a defined geographical area, but the current trend is to make the Health Visitor's caseload the patients registered with one or more family doctors and to arrange for the Health Visitor to have frequent contact with the doctors.

The Health Visitors employed in the District are based at the Clinics at Derby Road, Golborne and Jackson Avenue, Culcheth.

Midwifery

Whole-time domiciliary midwives are engaged on this work within the District in the employ of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act. These nurses normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a car at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

Mrs. A. G. Corless, 6 Delamere Avenue, Lowton, Tel. No. Leigh 72756
 Mrs. French, 32 Welford Avenue, Lowton, Tel. No. Ashton-in-

Makerfield 76030

Mrs. L. Thomas, 1 Stretton Avenue, Lowton, Tel. No. Ashton-in-
 Makerfield 76088

Mrs. J. Holland, 8 Crossfield Avenue, Culcheth, Tel. No. Culcheth 3069.

District Nursing

An "attachment" scheme is now in operation by which district nursing sisters take their patients according to the medical practice to which they are attached and not according to a geographical district as before. District Nurses of the S.E.N. grade and nursing auxiliaries are also employed to work under the supervision of the nursing sisters; in this scheme nursing sisters and general medical practitioners work closely together with full consultation so that the skill of the specially trained nurse can be properly employed.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Nursing Sisters are:-

Mrs. I. Fotheringham, 37 Woburn Avenue, Newton-le-Willows, Tel. No. Newton-le-Willows 6724
 Mrs. A. Morrison, 29 Churchfield, Croft, Tel. No. Culcheth 2044
 Mrs. E. Monks, 365 Newton Road, Lowton, Tel. No. Leigh 71445
 Mrs. M. Dutton, 37 Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth, Tel. No. Culcheth 2235.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Facilities are provided both by the County Council and by family doctors for giving protection against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, and german measles. Certain other immunisations, e.g. against typhoid fever, may be given by family doctors when required. The B.C.G. injection against tuberculosis is given by the School Health Service and by the staff of Chest Clinics.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

The scope of these arrangements is very wide and includes health education, health visiting in the homes including those of persons suffering from tuberculosis, the provision of ancillary nursing equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation. It also includes the provision of a chiropody service available to the elderly (aged 65 or over) registered handicapped persons, and expectant mothers.

Further information about all of the foregoing services may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Officer, Divisional Health Office, Winwick, (Telephone No. Warrington 37444).

Social Services

The Lancashire County Council is the responsible authority, and the day to day administration of the services is in the hands of Divisional Social Services Committee No. 4. The services provided include Social Workers, Home Helps, residential accommodation, and day centres, and they cater mainly for the elderly, the physically handicapped, the mentally disordered, children and the homeless. The County Council's scheme utilises very fully the various voluntary agencies in the provision of facilities such as social clubs, luncheon clubs, and "meals on wheels" for the aged and the handicapped. The Social Services Committee also pays a grant to the District Council in respect of approved tenants of warden-supervised housing.

Enquiries regarding the Social Services Department should be made to the Area Officer, Social Services Department (Division 4), 20 Kenyon Lane, Lowton (Telephone No. Leigh 4418).

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended 31st December, 1973

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To the Chairman and Members
of the Golborne Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Hookey and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the environmental and refuse collection services of the Urban District for 1973 my third report since promotion.

During the year considerable progress was made in the improvement of the older houses in the District since the extension by the Government of the boundaries of the Intermediate Development Areas. This action meant the inclusion of this District as one of those in which 75% of the Approved Expenditure for Improvement Grant could be paid. The number of applications received was 310, and the amount of money paid by way of Grant was £545,941.00.

Towards the end of the year it was noticed that many property owners had enquired about Improvement Grants and had been advised as to the amount of work required to bring their houses up to the necessary standard, but had not made formal application for Grant. After making enquiries as to the reasons it was soon realised that the main difficulty was that the small number of existing local builders were becoming overcommitted and not able to take on any extra work. This situation still remains at the time of writing this report. One of the dangers created by a shortage of recognised builders and skilled labour is that owners tend to employ less well known labour which thereby requires careful and constant supervision of work being carried out to ensure that standards are maintained.

A considerable amount of the time of all the Public Health Inspectors was spent on explaining the procedure to potential applicants and supervising the work during the course of the contract. So much time was, in fact, spent on this type of work that much of the normal routine work of the Department has had to be neglected during the year. A situation which, it is hoped, will be alleviated by the pending re-organisation of Local Government.

It is pleasing to note that the regular weekly collection of household refuse, which was instituted during the latter end of 1972, operated very satisfactorily throughout the year. This achievement has not been without problems and on occasions it has only been the close co-operation between the Officers of the Council and the employees that the service, to which every ratepayer is entitled, has been maintained.

The Council continued to maintain their fleet of modern refuse collection vehicles consisting of compression and rotating impellor type vehicles. The maintenance of the fleet is of prime importance when daily usage of the vehicles is required and due note ought to be made of the efforts of the Mechanic's Staff of the Surveyor's Department for their willingness and ready co-operation to attend to these vehicles when breakdowns have occurred.

The two disposal points provided under the Civic Amenities Act, which enable residents to deposit rubbish free of charge, appear to be greatly appreciated and very well used and it has been found necessary to empty the contents of these points daily. The weekly special collection of unwanted household articles, of a bulky nature, such as furniture and bedding, operated successfully throughout the year.

In conclusion, I wish to record my thanks to the Members of the Council for their continued interest in all matters affecting environmental health and particularly to the Chairman of the Health and Water Committee for her enthusiasm and support. To the Clerk, Chief Officers and other Officers of the Council for their helpful co-operation and assistance at all times. To the Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. H. Longworth, Mr. J. Gwatkins and Mr. D. McLoughlin, the Additional Public Health Inspectors and to Mrs. S. Brockley, Clerical Assistant and Mrs. B. Dean, Part-Time Clerical Assistant, I tender my grateful thanks for their help and ready co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Healey and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

N. SPEED,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act - Inspections	..	2
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act - Samples taken	..	2
Refuse Collection	59	
Refuse Tips	18	
Rodent Infestations and Sewer Baiting	16	
Schools	16	
Shops Act Inspections	29	
Slaughterhouse	105	
Smoke and Grit Emission	7	
Smoke Observation	9	
Street Vendors and Hawkers	1	
Water Samples	14	
Water Supply	18	
		7,549

Work Carried Out to Remedy Defects Discovered and Dealt with under Public Health Acts, etc.

Work Carried Out	Public Health Acts
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION	
Defective watercloset supply pipes repaired	1
Defective watercloset cisterns repaired	1
DRAINAGE	
Blocked drains cleared	100
Defective drains repaired	2
New eavessgutters provided	2
HOUSING	
Defective window frames repaired	2
Defective wallplaster renewed (Rooms)	1
New doors and frames provided	2
External walls repainted or repaired	2
Defective chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	1
Roofs renewed or repaired	2
Defective dustbins renewed	356
Houses demolished	7
Other repairs	3
TOTAL	482

Number of defects or nuisances outstanding at end of 1972	59
Number of defects or nuisances arising during 1973	97
Number of defects or nuisances abated during 1973	120
Number of defects or nuisances outstanding at end of 1973	36
Number of complaints received	20
Number of informal notices served	29
Number of statutory notices served	7
Legal proceedings	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 and 1961

Details of Statutory Notices Served
During Year

Section of Act	Reason for Notice	No. of Notices Served	No. of Notices Complied with	Outstanding at end of Year
<u>1936</u>				
39	Defective drains, sinks, eavessgutters, down-spouts etc.	2	1	1
45	Defective Closets	1	1	-
93	Other conditions prejudicial to health	3	1	2
<u>1961</u>				
17	Drainage	1	1	-
TOTAL		7	4	3

Office Routine

This aspect of the work of the Department is often overlooked and it is fitting at this juncture to emphasise the necessity of accurate and comprehensive records in the wide and varied field of the department's activities.

During the period under review the clerical work was carried out with a high degree of efficiency and there is no doubt that the proper functioning of the administrative and clerical work in the office plays a vital part in the role of the Public Health Department.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply for the district is provided by the following authorities:-

Golborne and Lowton - water supplied and distributed entirely by the Makerfield Water Board.

Culcheth and Glazebury - water supplied and distributed by the Warrington and Runcorn Water Board.

All the 9,594 houses in the district are now directly connected to the public water mains.

The water supply, whilst being chemically a hard water in part of the district, is constant and has satisfied the purity standards of the Department of the Environment. Generally, the quantity of water supplied has been satisfactory.

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination or plumbo solvent action.

Fluoride occurs in the water supply in the following quantities:-

Makerfield Water Board - 0.18 Parts Per Million

Warrington and Runcorn Water Board - 0.1 Parts Per Million

14 samples of mains water from the various public supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Conversions

During the year four hundred and one visits were made in connection with the examination, testing and repair of drains. One hundred choked drains were cleared and two defective drainage systems repaired. A minority of houses in the outlying parts of the district are not connected to the public sewer. These houses are provided with septic tanks and during the year the Council have undertaken the emptying of these on request.

As a result of the action taken during the past few years to effect the maximum conversion of insanitary closets, all the remaining privy and pail closets in the district are attached to houses situated a considerable distance from a sewer and are only capable of conversion by the provision of a septic tank.

Provision of Sanitary Accommodation

The approximate number of the various types of sanitary conveniences provided in the district are as follows:-

Number of Houses on water carriage system	9,552
Number of Middens	21
Number of Closets attached to these middens	21
Number of Trough Closets	8
Number of Pail Closets	13

Rivers and Streams

The pollution of the Millingford Brook with sewage from the Ashton-in-Makerfield district still continues, but to a much lesser degree. The brook does, however, suffer from the unauthorised dumping of all types of rubbish which interferes with the flow of water and requires frequent cleaning out.

HOUSING

The General standard of housing varies in different parts of the district. In the industrial area a number of sub-standard houses of reasonable structure built forty to sixty years ago require improvement and modern amenities. Some improvement is, however, gradually being made in houses of this type, mainly owner-occupied, by means of grants. In the remaining areas the standard of housing is fairly good with the exception of a few groups. There are no back to back houses in the district.

During the year 16 Council bungalows were completed and occupied, these being in the Culcheth area of the Urban District. One hundred and thirty houses and twenty-five bungalows were erected by private enterprise, making a total of One Hundred and Seventy-One additional housing units provided during the year.

There are eighteen Council housing estates and 2,721 houses, bungalows and flats are owned by the Council. These are distributed as follows:-

Culcheth	..	..	..	..	..	763
Glazebury	..	..	..	..	..	74
Colborne	..	..	..	..	..	1,282
Kenyon	..	..	..	..	..	4
Lowton	..	..	..	..	..	598

Housing Acts 1969 and 1971

These Acts contain several new provisions and amend the Housing Acts of 1957, 1961 and 1964. The provisions for the payment of grants for the improvement of houses have been increased and details of these are as follows:-

- (a) Standard Grants under which house owners can obtain 75% of the cost, subject to certain maximum amounts, of installing the five standard amenities - fixed bath or shower, wash-hand basin, inside watercloset, hot water supply and a sink, in cases where these amenities are not already available. Provision is also made for a reduced standard amenity, consisting of a sink, a hot and cold water supply at a sink and a water-closet.
- (b) Improvement Grants are also payable for a wider range and more extensive forms of improvement, such as complete re-conditioning schemes, conversion or adaptation of larger houses and other buildings. The payment of these grants is at the discretion of the local authority.

Details of the grants made are as follows:-

Standard Grants

Action during year:-

- (a) Applications submitted to local authority (Full Standard)
- (b) Applications approved by local authority (Full Standard)
- (c) Applications submitted to local authority (Reduced Standard)
- (d) Work Completed

*Grants approved 1972 but work only completed 1973

No. of Dwellings or Other Buildings Affected	
Owner Occupied	Others
29	8
29	8
Nil	Nil
18	3
*11	*6

Improvement Grants

Action during year:-	No. of Dwelling Houses or Other Buildings affected in schemes of		
	Owner Occupied	Others	Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	181	129	-
(b) Approved by local authority	173	121	-
(c) Submitted by local authority to Department of the Environment	-	-	408
(d) Finally approved by Department of the Environment	-	-	408
(e) Work completed *Grants approved 1972 but work only completed 1973	*51	*16	-
(f) Separate dwellings included in (e) above	Nil	Nil	Nil

Rent Act, 1957

No further applications for Certificates of Disrepair have been received during the year, and it would appear that action under this legislation has been superceded by applications for Qualification Certificates under the Housing Finance Act, 1972.

Qualification Certificates

The Housing Finance Act, 1972 which came into operation in August of that year introduced a method of converting controlled tenancies into regulated tenancies. In order for this conversion to take place the house must satisfy the qualifying conditions laid down in the Act. These are briefly as follows:-

1. The house must be provided with all the standard amenities freely available for the use of the occupier.
2. That the dwelling is in good repair having regard to its age, character and locality, and disregarding internal decorative repair.
3. The dwelling is fit in all other respects for human habitation.

Under the procedure laid down in the Act the landlord must make application to the Local Authority for a Qualification Certificate and if the Local Authority are satisfied that the house satisfies the qualifying conditions mentioned above, then a Qualification Certificate is issued.

During the year thirteen applications have been received and were approved.

Housing Statistics

Number of New Dwellings Erected During the Year

	Houses	Bungalows	Flats
(i) By the local authority	-	16	-
(ii) By other local authorities	-	-	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons	130	25	-
TOTALS	130	41	-

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 336
 (b) Number of inspections made for this purpose 356
 (c) Number of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 300

(2) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which -
 (a) Demolition or Closing Orders have been made (at any time) Nil
 (b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made 111

2. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in Which Defects were Remedied

No. of Houses

(1) After informal action by local authority 20

(2) Public Health Acts - After service of formal notice		
(a) By Owners	4	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		Nil
(3) Section 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957 - After Service of Notice		
(a) By Owners		Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		Nil

Verminous Houses

During the year twenty-one Council Houses and thirty-eight privately owned houses were found to be infested with vermin. Of these premises, six houses were infested with Bugs, ten houses were infested with Cockroaches, thirty-three houses had infestations of Ants, one house had an infestation of Silverfish, seven houses were infested with Wasps, one house was infested with Carpet Beetles and one house was infested with Red Mite. All these premises were treated by Contractor's Staff using liquid and powder insecticides on a chargeable basis and were kept under observation after treatment. No evidence of re-infestation was found.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

The collection of refuse was carried out using seven rear loading motor vehicles. The fleet consists of two 19/60 cub. yard continuous loading vehicle of the rotating impellor type and five 14/35 cub. yard compression type vehicles. The collection of paper salvage using a tipper lorry continued to operate during the year.

The rotating impellor and compression type vehicles provide a much better pay-load and were of considerable assistance in reducing the number of loads of refuse and the consequent time taken in going to the tip. In view of the present trend of refuse becoming a lighter and bulkier product, these types of vehicle provide some degree of compaction of the load and have considerable advantages over the older types of refuse collection vehicle.

Under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the Council provide two places in the Urban District where residents may deposit refuse free of charge. Both these sites were well used during the year and the contents of the sites are removed daily to the refuse tip. In addition, five motor vehicles abandoned in various parts of the Urban District were dealt with under this Act and the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations, 1968.

A special collection for old furniture and other unwanted household articles was also made throughout the district weekly. This is a free service to all residents on request being made to the Public Health Department, but in spite of these arrangements a considerable amount of rubbish of various types continues to be dumped on road verges and other places.

During the year a weekly collection of refuse has been maintained due to the introduction of a work studied bonus scheme introduced in November, 1972.

During the year refuse was disposed of on a large area of low lying land which the Council had previously purchased outside the district at Houghton Cote Lane, Abram.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in accordance with model standards and a mechanical loading shovel is engaged full time to effect this control.

Replacement of Dustbins

During the year one hundred and forty-seven dustbins were supplied by the Health Department under the voluntary scheme, and two hundred and nine defective dustbins renewed at Council Houses.

SALVAGE

The collection of salvage has been continued throughout the year, waste paper being the principal material recovered. The price obtained for waste paper was £12.75 per ton. As in previous years, no separation or grading of paper was carried out and all the material collected was baled and sold as mixed waste paper.

Materials Salvaged

	<u>1973</u>		<u>1972</u>	
	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Kilos</u>	<u>Tonnes</u>	<u>Kilos</u>
Mixed Waste Paper	57	231	89	584
Rags	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	57	231	89	584

Receipts from Salvage

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
	£.p	£.p
Mixed Waste Paper	614.36	851.05
Rags	-	-
	<u>614.36</u>	<u>851.05</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Food Inspection

One licensed slaughterhouse has been in operation during the year and animals slaughtered at these premises have provided a portion of the meat supply for the Glazebury and Culcheth districts. The main supply of butchers' meat is, however, obtained from outside the Urban District and all the meat sold is of good quality.

The inspection of meat has always been given priority and a total of one hundred and nine visits were made to the slaughterhouse during the year for meat inspection purposes. As a number of animals slaughtered at any one time is comparatively small it has been necessary to make two visits per week to ensure 100 per cent inspection. All the animals slaughtered were of the best quality.

The following table indicates the number of animals slaughtered and inspected during the year:-

Animals Inspected and Carcasses Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	144	-	-	538	4
Number inspected	144	-	-	538	4
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.25%	-	-	-	-

None of the carcasses inspected during the year were found to be affected with Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.

Details of Meat Condemned
1972

Other Diseases

<u>Cattle</u>	Livers (Parts) - 9 (Abcesses Distoma)
	Livers - 9 (Abcesses Distoma - Bac Necrosis)
	Lungs - 1 (Abcesses)
<u>Sheep</u>	Livers - 8 (Parasitic)
	Lungs - 5 (Parasitic)

All condemned meat was stained with green dye and removed to a licensed plant for conversion to fertilisers, etc.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned at slaughterhouse - 184 lbs.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958
Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 - 1968

During the year the slaughterhouse at Glazebury has been maintained in a good condition. The premises have been kept in a clean condition and the slaughterhouse and cooling room were completely repainted during the year.

The requirements of Part 4 of the Regulations relating to hygienic practices and slaughtering processes were generally observed.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958
Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations
1958 - 1968

This Act and the Regulations, in addition to the requirements relating to the provision of proper lairage, stunning pen, etc., prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen, and requires all animals to be stunned by means of a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter.

Licences granted to slaughtermen under this Act are valid for a maximum period of one year and specify the types of animals permitted to be slaughtered and the type of stunning instrument to be used. During the year three existing licences were renewed.

The Regulations are intended to secure a high standard of humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knackers' yards.

Unsound Food

The following table indicates the various tinned and other food stuffs found to be unfit for human consumption at shops, warehouses and other premises, all of which were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1973	
Food Unfit for Human Consumption	
Nature of Food	Quantity Condemned
	lbs.
Beef	105
Cake	7
Cheese	198
Cooked Ham	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corned Beef	53
Cream	341 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dried Milk	56
Fish	274 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fruit	6087 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ice Cream	789 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lamb	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ox Tongue	55 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pastry	57 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork	57 $\frac{1}{4}$
Poultry	691 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar	10
Suet	7
Tomatoe Puree	9
Vegetables	730 $\frac{3}{4}$
Yoghurt	118 $\frac{1}{4}$
 TOTAL	 9,746 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Quantities of tinned and other meat, poultry and fish products are removed to a licensed treatment plant at Warrington. Fruit and vegetable products are buried on the refuse tip under supervision.

One hundred and sixty-three visits were made in connection with the inspection of food in shops and warehouses during the year.

Food Premises

The number of food premises, classified according to type of business in the district at the end of the year was as follows:-

General Grocers and Provision Dealers etc.	57
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc.)	9
Meat Shops (Butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meat, tripe etc.)	13
Bakers and/or Confectioners	12
Fried Fish Shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, cafes, snack bars and other similar catering establishments	67
Others	1
 TOTAL	 191

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

During the year much attention has been given to the many aspects of these regulations. The following table shows the position regarding the provision of wash-hand basins and sinks at the end of the year.

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (Wash-hand basins)</u>	<u>No. to which Regulation 19 applies</u>	<u>No. fitted to comply with Regulation 19</u>
General Grocers etc.	57	57	57	57
Greengrocers	9	9	9	9
Meat Shops	13	13	13	13
Bakers and Confectioners	12	12	12	12
Fried Fish Shops	15	15	15	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery	17	17	17	17
Licensed Premises etc.	67	67	67	67
Others	1	1	1	1

The possible contamination of foodstuffs was again given much attention and whilst the trend towards packaged goods has removed much unprotected foods there has again been a few instances where confectionery and other foods have been exposed unprotected on shop counters and similar places. Severe warnings were issued in such cases.

The majority of food traders in the district however, make a genuine effort to comply with the Regulations and the elimination of those few undesirable and thoughtless practices is largely a matter of failure to give proper instruction to persons employed in food handling processes. This emphasizes the need of regular inspection of these premises to prevent any lowering of standards in food hygiene.

Registration of Premises

The registration of certain food premises and hawkers of food continued to be effected under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Acts, 1938 - 1968.

During the year no new premises were registered under the above Act.

Whilst premises relating to the sale of ice cream are referred to later in the report, the number of food preparation premises and hawkers on the register at the end of the year was as follows:-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Purveyors of Meat and Fish Products -	
Fish Friers	15
Butchers	8
Grocers	3
Confectioners	6
Ice Cream Premises	54
Hawkers of Meat Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables resident in the district	9
Hawkers' Storage Premises in the district	4
Hawkers from other districts	35
	<hr/>
TOTAL	134

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses on register	12
Number of inspections made during year	12

All these premises have been kept in a clean condition, and are in good structural condition.

MILK SUPPLY

The Urban District is included in the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 3 Order and dairymen are required to supply only designated milk in sealed bottles and containers.

At the end of the year the number of milk distributors operating in the district was as follows:-

Producer - Retailers resident in the district	3
Producer - Retailers from outside the district	1
Retailers resident in the district	3
Retailers from outside the district	10

In addition to the aforementioned, a number of shops are licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority to sell milk in sealed bottles.

Thirty-one visits were made to premises in connection with matters relative to the Milk and Dairies Regulations during the year.

Milk Sampling

The regular sampling of all milk produced at farms in the district and milk supplies from outside areas has been continued during the year. Regular monthly samples were taken from all producer retailers in the district in connection with the Brucellosis eradication scheme and samples from other milk supplies were submitted for the Tuberculosis Test and Methylene Blue Test, and, in the case of heat treated milk, the Phosphatase Test for Pasteurised Milk and the Turbidity Test for Sterilised Milk.

A total of 34 samples were taken during the year and the results of these were as follows:-

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>		<u>Milk Ring Test</u>	
	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive</u>
Untreated	34	-	34	-

The following table shows the results of the milk samples taken, together with comparative figures for the previous five years.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1973

Examination of Milk Samples, 1968-1972 & 1973

Type of Milk	Year	No. of Samples taken	Nature of Test Carried Out							
			Methylene Blue		Tuberculosis				Milk Ring Test	
			Satis.	Un-Satis.	Nega-tive	Posi-tive	Void	Nega-tive	Posi-tive	
	1973	34	34	-	-	-	-	34	-	
Untreated (Tuberculin Tested)	1972	40	40	-	1	-	-	39	1	
	1971	27	27	-	9	-	-	27	-	
	1970	34	34	-	8	-	-	24	2	
	1969	45	42	3	8	-	3	31	3	
	1968	54	54	-	21	-	2	30	1	

ICE CREAM

The ice cream sold from shops in the district is prepacked but a quantity of loose ice cream, the majority of which is of the "soft ice cream" type, is sold from vehicles, all of which come from other areas outside the Urban District.

During the year one application was submitted for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Acts, 1938-68.

The total number of vendors of ice cream is 50 all of which sell prepacked ice cream only. In addition, four manufacturers from outside the district operate mobile vehicles in the Golborne Urban District.

Twenty-six visits were made to ice cream premises during the year and the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations relating to the storage of ice cream have generally been observed by purveyors.

Some difficulty has again been experienced in obtaining samples of loose ice cream from mobile vehicles from outside districts who often operate at irregular hours and prevent the submission of a sample to the Public Health Laboratory within the requisite period.

The grading of ice cream samples over the past five years is as follows:-

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Grade 1	19	19	25	21	19
Grade 2	4	6	3	4	8
Grade 3	2	2	-	2	1
Grade 4	-	-	-	-	-
Void	-	-	2	-	-
	—	—	—	—	—
	25	27	30	27	28
	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The County Council is the authority responsible for carrying out the provisions of the above Act relating to food sampling and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for particulars of the following samples which have been taken in the district and submitted for analysis.

A total of 131 samples was obtained comprising 91 milks (16 of which were Channel Islands Milk) and 40 others as follows:-

1 Slightly Salted Butter	1 Bread Roll
1 Baby Food (High Protein)	1 Pearl Barley
1 Selected Nuts	1 Ground Rice
1 Fruit, canned	1 Custard Powder
1 Baby Syrup (Vitamin C)	1 Blancmange Powder
1 Fruit Pie Filling, canned	1 Cornflour
1 Creamed Tapioca Milk Pudding, canned	1 Distilled Malt Vinegar
1 Uncooked Steak and Kidney Pie	2 Tea
1 Chicken and Mushroom Casserole (Frozen)	2 Bread
2 Cough Mixture	1 Sterilised Cream
1 Spam Spread, canned	1 Rice Pudding, canned
1 Fruit Drops	1 Shrimps in Brine
1 Antacid with Glucose (Powder)	1 Pineapple Pulp, opened can
1 Pork Sausages with Lard, canned	1 Beef Pie
1 Sausage Roll	1 Full Fat Soft Cheese
1 Dried Fruit Mixture	1 Smoked Cheese
1 Sultanas	1 Baked Beans with Tomato Sauce, canned
1 Lamb Curry, canned	1 Peeled Shrimps in Brine, canned
1 Glaze Cherries	

I give below those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
Selected Nuts	Contained only peanuts (in shells and without shells). The blunderbuss declaration of ingredients i.e. "This pack may contain a mixture of Brazils, Walnuts, Filberts and Almonds with or without Peanuts or a complete filling of any one of them", not satisfactory.	Packers communicated with.
Bread Roll	Contained deposits of hard unrisen dough, very heavily stained by oxides of iron (of which there were 5,000 parts - expressed as iron - per million parts of dough) and weighing 4.93 gms. The dough contained 6.1% of fatty material 3.4% of it being mineral oil of the nature of lubricating oil the amount of mineral oil present in the said unrisen dough constituting 0.295% of the whole specimen.	Dealt with informally complainant not prepared to give a statement.
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicates 8% extraneous water.	Formal sample obtained.
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicates 2.1% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned further sample obtained.
Informal Milk	Contained approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of circular matt of dead mould, which, when complete would have fitted inside the base of the bottle - mainly of a penicillin species - supported of old milk solids and weighing, when blotted dry 1.7 gms.	Dealt with informally.
Bread	The constituents of the sample, included the following substances in proportion as under:- a used steel split pin weighing 1.98 gms. and measuring 27 mms. x 6.9 mms.	Prosecution Fined £20 Costs £15.50.

Bread	Contained a living earwig which weighed 0.042 gms. and measured 14 mms. in length. It would not have been associated with the original bread.	Complainant informed.
Informal Milk	Freezing point indicated 0.6% extraneous water.	Dairy cautioned and further sample obtained.
Bread	Contained a copper plated and partly lacquered iron wire strip measuring 68 mm. (2 11/16 inches) long 2 mm. wide and 1 mm. thick which weighed 0.94 grms.	Dealt with informally.
Shrimps in Brine	The fly which lay in top of the food in the opened can had not been cooked and must therefore have dropped into the food after the can had been opened.	Complainant informed.
Pineapple Pulp, opened can	Contained a cooked worker bee weighing 63 mgs.	Importer and complainant informed.
Beef Pies	Salt content of fillings 2.2 to 2.7% Total volatile notrogen of meat acceptable (Slight infection by a rapidly growing mould of Mucor species had probably occurred after purchase).	Complainant informed and pie-maker warned about excess of salt.
Formal Milk	Contained 0.09 I.U./cm ³ penicillin	Producer cautioned and further samples obtained.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year further attention was given to conditions in shops, warehouses and similar premises.

No serious contraventions of the Act were found but a few instances of occupiers of shops failing to provide the necessary notices relating to early closing days, hours of employment and other matters were noted and appropriate action taken in each case.

Twenty-nine inspections were made during the year in connection with this work.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act provides for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in shops, offices and railway premises. Further progress was made with inspections for the requirements of the Act covering cleanliness, temperature, ventilation, overcrowding, lighting, washing facilities, drinking water, sanitary conveniences, safety of machinery and first aid.

Contraventions noted during inspections were all dealt with informally, and it was not necessary to institute any legal proceedings.

As in previous years, the requirements of the Act relating to the notification of accidents involving the absence of employees for more than three days still do not appear to be fully appreciated by occupiers of premises to which the Act applies. Eight accidents were reported during the year.

No exemptions from the requirements of any of the provisions of the Act were granted during the year.

Details of the premises covered by the Act are as follows:-

	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of persons employed	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	4	36	678	10
Retail Shops	4	97	312	11
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	2	17	83	5
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	10	150	1073	26

Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises - 26

NOISE NUISANCES

During the year four complaints were received from residents relating to excessive noise arising in the district. In these cases the complaints were confirmed and after negotiations the intensity of noise was reduced to a reasonable level by informal action.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Regulations, 1961-65

This Act governs the conditions under which rag flock is manufactured and stored, and controls the use of this and other filling materials for upholstery and other purposes. Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are prescribed by Regulations and certain premises require to be registered by the local authority.

One factory in the district carrying on upholstery work is registered by the Council. There are no premises in the district where rag flock is manufactured. One visit was made to the registered premises and one sample of filling material i.e. Rag Flock, was submitted for analysis, and this satisfied all the tests laid down by the Regulations.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the rodent control work was carried out exclusively by a private servicing company under contract to the Council and the system continued to operate satisfactorily.

The Council continued to give a free service for the treatment of rodent infestations found on dwelling houses. Although the Council carry out this work and render every assistance in these cases, it should be emphasised that the statutory responsibility of keeping premises free from rodent infestation is placed on the occupier.

The majority of the occupiers of agricultural properties have treated their own premises and in many cases this work does not receive the attention that it warrants often resulting in the spread of infestation from farmland to house property.

Details of Surface Infestations

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
(a) Number of Properties in district	10,726	82
(b) Number of Properties inspected following notifications	333	-
(c) No. of (b) Infested by - rats	237	-
- mice	96	-

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
/Cont'd		
(d) Number of infested properties treated	333	-
(e) Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	333	-

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Moveable Dwellings

During the year four caravans in various parts of the district have been used for permanent residential purposes, all of which had planning permission and were licenced in accordance with the above Act.

The caravans in use are of the modern trailer type stationed on separate sites and are required to comply with the Council's standards and conditions, based on the 1960 model standards, relating to sanitary accommodation, readily accessible water supply, adequate paving and drainage and other requirements.

Action was taken at various times during the year to remove the caravans of dealers and travelling salesmen who were encamped on unlicenced and unsuitable sites.

There are no licensed multiple caravan sites in the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of all premises used for the sale of pets, including a private dwelling if used for this purpose.

The provision of the Act require that accommodation used for keeping pets shall be suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, and there is an adequate supply of suitable food and drink and that the animals shall not be sold at too early an age.

Two premises in the Urban District are licensed for this purpose.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

There are no premises in the Urban District to which this Act applies.

ANIMAL DESTRUCTION CENTRE

The Council have provided an Animal Destruction Centre at the rear of the Council Offices, Lowton, for the destruction of unwanted domestic animals. A modern electrocution chamber is in operation and for a nominal charge cats and dogs are instantaneously and painlessly destroyed, a service which continues to be greatly appreciated by the public.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Five persons are registered as scrap metal dealers under the above Act, three of these being recognised as itinerant collectors and registered as such by exemption orders made under Section 2 of the Act.

During the year under review no further applications for registration were received.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

As in previous years, the co-operation of boiler plant operators has been readily given in furtherance of our efforts to secure a reduction of atmospheric pollution from industrial sources. With the gradual improvement of boiler plant throughout the district and better knowledge of the requirements of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, by plant operators the emission of industrial smoke has been very much reduced.

Byelaws made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, are in operation requiring the installation of approved heating and cooking appliances in new buildings.

The Council is a member of the North Western Division of the National Society for Clean Air and the Manchester and District Clean Air Council.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

During the year there was some variation in the number and type of the factories in the district and at the end of the year the number of factories on the register was as follows:-

Rayon Manufacture and Processing	1
Preserves and Sugar Confectionery	1
Engineers	9
Boot and Shoe Repairs	2
Motor Vehicle Repairs	15
Printers	2
Joiners and Builders	10
Bakers and Confectioners	9
Corn Milling	2
Tyre Retreading and Rubber Reclamation	2

Electrical Repairs and Fitments	3
Cinema Furnishings and Upholstery	2
Hospital Laundry	1
Building Operations	15
Plastic Fabrication	3
Other Works	6

The requirements of the Factories Act appear to be well observed and in every case defects were remedied without statutory action.

During the year the number of small building sites were further reduced largely as a result of economic consideration and the difficulties of administering Section 127 relating to the provision of sanitary accommodation and other requirements at these building operations were not as great as in previous years.

The following tables give details of factory inspections carried out during the year together with particulars of outworkers and defects dealt with.

Part 1

1. Inspection for the purposes of provisions as to health

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1972				
Factories Act, 1961				
Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of written notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories with mechanical power	68	20	-	-
Factories without mechanical power	1	2	-	-
Other Premises	14	7	-	-
TOTALS	83	29	-	-

Cases in which defects were remedied:-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1973					
Factories Act, 1961					
Defects Found					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspectors	Referred by H.M. Inspectors	No. of Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	2	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	3	-	-	-

Part 8

Outwork - Sections 133 and 134

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Making of Wearing Apparel	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Making of Christmas Crackers	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

